United Nations A/55/195

General Assembly

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English
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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request you to include a supplementary item, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations", in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, an explanatory memorandum is annexed to this request.

(*Signed*) Arnoldo M. **Listre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59283 (E) 080800 080800

Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

Peacekeeping operations are one of the central activities of the United Nations and a collective responsibility of all Member States.

The methodology used to apportion the expenses of peacekeeping operations among Member States was agreed on in 1973 and has been applied continually since then.

The circumstances that existed in 1973, however, are not the same as current ones. The Organization has been called upon to face ever greater and more complex peacekeeping challenges in an international political and economic context that was undergoing profound changes.

It seems timely, therefore, to consider whether the current special scale for peacekeeping operations is sufficient to enable the Organization to meet its new responsibilities fully and to ensure that the commitment of Member States to peacekeeping is reflected in the payment of assessments that are equitable, in other words, that take into account:

(a) The special responsibility that the permanent members of the Security Council have in the maintenance of peace and security and that they are the ones, therefore, who should primarily absorb the higher costs of peacekeeping operations;

(b) The limited capacity of developing countries to contribute to peacekeeping operations and the necessity for any increases in their assessments to be gradual and separated by intervals.

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Panama, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, respectfully requests the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations".

The Mission respectfully suggests that the scale of assessments be considered, along with an in-depth analysis of the scope of United Nations peacekeeping operations, by the Fifth Committee during the main part of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I am pleased to attach hereto an explanatory memorandum concerning this request.

(*Signed*) Ramon A. **Morales Q.**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59289 (E) 080800

Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The General Assembly's deep and reiterated concern over the peacekeeping scale methodology has to be addressed without further delay in order to conform it to ongoing and future peacekeeping operations.

The Permanent Mission of Panama is in agreement with the delegations that have voiced the need for updating a system that was adopted in 1973 for a particular case and that had been utilized as a long-term mechanism without ever being adapted to the new realities of the world.

The inclusion of an item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly should be conceived in such form that the membership would be able to engage in an in-depth analysis of the understanding of the concept of peacekeeping operations, both as prescribed by the Charter and in the much more ample scope suggested by some Members.

The Permanent Mission of Panama considers equally important that the membership also discuss reforming the manner in which peacekeeping operations are planned, carried out and paid for. Consideration of this important matter should permit the optimal use of available resources, allow for enhancement of the participation of the principal organs and functional commissions of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations, and provide better security for personnel assigned to those missions.

In conclusion, the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations requests that this item be inscribed in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and assigned to the Fifth Committee.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Ad hoc scale of assessments for the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request, on behalf of the European Union, the inclusion, in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of a supplementary item entitled "Ad hoc scale of assessments for the United Nations peacekeeping operations".

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, Iceland and Liechtenstein, associate themselves with this request.

As stipulated in rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this request has been accompanied by an explanatory memorandum.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59307 (E) 080800 080800

Annex to the letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The European Union has been calling for many years for the reform of the ad hoc scale of assessments for the United Nations peacekeeping operations. Although it was considered a temporary solution when it was established, this scale has not been updated since 1973 and, in its current state, contains many anomalies. The structure of the groups, in particular, should be revised so as to take more account of the level of economic development of Member States, and should be based on objective criteria, such as per capita income.

On 20 March 2000, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Union reaffirmed the commitment of the Fifteen to the comprehensive reform of the two United Nations scales of assessments, both the regular-budget scale and the peacekeeping scale, with a view to placing the finances of the United Nations on a solid, durable and equitable footing. In that regard, capacity to pay should remain the guiding principle in the construction of both scales.

The European Union therefore requests the inclusion, in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of an item entitled "Ad hoc scale of assessments for the United Nations peacekeeping operations" and proposes that, in accordance with the rules of procedure, this item should be allocated to the Fifth Committee, the competent body for administrative and budgetary matters.

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly to discuss the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. It would be most appropriate for the matter to be allocated to the Fifth Committee for its consideration during the regular session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached to the present letter.

(*Signed*) Robert R. **Fowler**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-60866 (E) 150800

Annex to the letter dated 13 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

The increased number and complexity of peacekeeping operations in today's environment has led Canada to conclude that Member States have an urgent obligation to convene a discussion of the peacekeeping scale of assessments during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

An agenda item to discuss the peacekeeping scale of assessments would reflect the fact that, after 27 years, there is a clear need to update the method of apportioning expenses. In its resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, the General Assembly made ad hoc arrangements to finance the United Nations Emergency Force. It recognized that a different procedure was required from the one applied to the regular budget because those countries that are economically more developed are in a better position to make relatively larger contributions. Countries that are less economically developed have a more limited capacity to contribute to peacekeeping operations. The resolution also reflected the special responsibilities of those States which are permanent members of the Security Council. However, because the resolution created an ad hoc arrangement, it did not include any mechanism for reviewing the peacekeeping scale, unlike the procedure established for the regular budget, which is reviewed every three years.

Given the importance that Canada attaches to more efficient and effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates, we believe that it is necessary to initiate a review of the peacekeeping scale. Agreeing to do so at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly will ensure that the system will become more transparent, more equitable and less arbitrary.

Canada believes that the Fifth Committee would be the appropriate forum to consider this issue during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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Fifty-fifth session

Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

Letter dated 24 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of an item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly under which the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations would be considered. It would be appropriate for this item to be allocated to the Fifth Committee for consideration during the main part of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure, an explanatory memorandum is attached to this letter.

I request that a copy of this letter together with the explanatory memorandum be circulated to the States Members of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Penny **Wensley**

00-60872 (E) 150800

Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

In its resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973, the General Assembly made ad hoc arrangements for the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force, recognizing that a different procedure was required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget. Those arrangements took into account the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, and the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards the financing of peacekeeping operations.

Since 1973 there has been a marked increase in the number and significant changes in the nature of United Nations peacekeeping operations. In 2000 requirements for peacekeeping operations are expected to reach the level of $2.6 billion.

There have also been considerable changes in the economic capacities of the States Members of the United Nations.

The apportionment of expenses for peacekeeping operations continues to be governed by the ad hoc arrangements instituted in 1973. The arrangements did not include a review mechanism.

There is an urgent need to review these arrangements comprehensively.

To this end Australia requests the inclusion of an item on the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

It is proper that this item be allocated to the Committee responsible for administrative and budgetary matters, the Fifth Committee, for consideration during the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

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Fifty-fifth session

Supplementary list of items proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly*

1. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe [item proposed by Italy (A/55/191)].
2. Observer status for the Inter-American Development Bank in the General Assembly [item proposed by Argentina (A/55/192)].
3. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Chile (A/55/193)].
4. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Argentina (A/55/195)].
5. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Panama (A/55/196)].
6. Ad hoc scale of assessments for United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by France (A/55/197)].
7. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Canada (A/55/198)].
8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Australia (A/55/199)].
9. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Bangladesh (A/55/224)].
10. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Norway (A/55/225)].
11. Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly [item proposed by Sweden (A/55/226)].
12. Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected [item proposed by Burkina Faso, the Gambia,

* Issued in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure.

00-60793 (E) 160800

Grenada, Honduras, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Solomon Islands and Swaziland (A/55/227)].

13. Towards global partnerships [item proposed by Germany (A/55/228)].

14. World drug problem [Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/16 of 27 July 2000].

15. The role of the United Nations in promoting a new global human order [item proposed by Guyana (A/55/229)].

16. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations [item proposed by Costa Rica (A/55/230)].

17. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict [item proposed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/55/231)].